

Serial No. 09/740,053

NIT-244

REMARKS

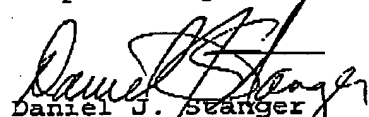
The applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1-6, 10-11, and 13-16 are now pending.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art. Without admitting to the propriety of the rejection, claim 12 has been canceled and dependent claim 13 rewritten in independent form, to expedite allowance of the remaining pending claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel J. Stanger
Registration No. 32,846
Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: (703) 684-1120
Facsimile: (703) 684-1157
Date: November 10, 2004